

REMARKS

Applicants attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courteous and helpful interview of October 8, 2002, during which the present amendments to the claims and the prior art were discussed.

Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 9 to remove the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as suggested by the Examiner, and to clarify the present invention.

As now provided in amended Claim 7, Applicants' invention is a wire harness loosening jig, in combination with a wire harness, that has a base plate, a fixing-side clamping portion on the base plate having a first pair of clamps for clamping one end of a wire harness, and a guide rail on the base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of the wire harness, when the wire harness is arranged in the wire harness loosening jig for loosening. A moveable-side clamping portion is slidably arranged with the guide rail having a second pair of clamps for clamping another end of the wire harness, and clampers are arranged to shift one of the first pair of clamps and one of the second pair of clamps in a radial direction of the wire harness to clamp the wire harness, so that when the movable-side clamping portion is moved towards the fixing-side clamping portion the wire harness is compressed and wires disposed therein are loosened. Independent Claim 9, as amended, is to the above invention wherein the movable-side clamping portion is movable towards the fixing-side clamping portion, so as to compress the wire harness and loosen wires disposed therein, by a driving mechanism including a screw shaft rotatably supported by a bearing on the side of the base plate, a motor for driving the screw shaft, and a lever for driving the motor. Such arrangements are not taught or suggested in the cited references.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Helm (U.S. 4,512,828) are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Helm shows a base plate (22), fixing side clamping portion (56), a guide rail (32 or 34), a movable-side clamping portion (54) and a drive mechanism (72). While Helm is designed for use in positioning a cable to aid in splicing cable end portions and not for loosening of a wire harness, the Office Action argues that the structure of the claims is shown and the issue is whether the structure is shown, not the use of the structure.

X (The element 22 of the Helm reference is not a base plate as claimed in the present structure, but rather a support frame including upright rigid members 26 that are connected to each other by a plurality of rigid horizontal members 28. The element 22 of Helm is a support frame. In the present claims, the fixing-side clamping portion 3 is on the base plate 2 and the guide rail 4 is on the base plate 2 to provide a compact arrangement. There is no fixing-side clamping portion or guide rail on the support frame 22 of Helm. The horizontal guide rails 32 or 34 of Helm are attached to the upper end of the rigid vertical members 26 and are not on a rectangular base plate as required in Applicants' claims. No base plate is provided in Helm but merely a series of horizontal and vertical rigid members 26 and 28.

In addition, there are no clampers, arranged to shift on a first pair of clamps and one of the second pair of clamps in a radial direction of a wire harness to clamp a wire harness in Helm that is now provided in Applicants' amended independent Claims 7 and 9, and clearly described in Figure 15 and at page 11, lines 11-13, of the present Substitute Specification.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, Claims 7-9 are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

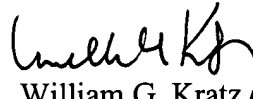
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made
 Petition for Extension of Time

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 7 and 9 as follows:

7. (Twice Amended) A wire harness loosening jig in combination with a wire harness comprising:

a base plate;

a fixing-side clamping portion on the base plate having a first pair of clamps for clamping one end of a wire harness;

a guide rail on said base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of said wire harness, when said wire harness is arranged in said wire harness loosening jig for loosening; [and]

a moveable-side clamping portion slidably arranged with the guide rail having a second pair of clamps for clamping an other end of said wire harness; and

claspers, arranged to shift one of said first pair of clamps and one of said second pair of clamps in a radial direction of said wire harness to clamp the wire harness, so that when said movable-side clamping portion is moved towards the fixing-side clamping portion said wire harness is compressed and wires disposed therein are loosened.

9. (Amended) A wire harness loosening jig in combination with a wire harness comprising:

- a base plate;
- a fixing-side clamping portion on the base plate having a first pair of clamps for clamping one end of a wire harness;
- a guide rail on said base plate extending in a longitudinal direction of said wire harness, when said wire harness is arranged in said wire harness loosening jig for loosening; [and]
- a moveable-side clamping portion slidably arranged with the guide rail having a second pair of clamps for clamping an other end of said wire harness; and
- clampers, arranged to shift one of said first pair of clamps and one of said second pair of clamps in a radial direction of said wire harness to clamp the wire harness;

wherein said movable -side clamping portion is movable towards the fixing-side clamping portion, so as to compress said wire harness and loosen wires disposed therein, by a driving mechanism including a screw shaft rotatably supported by a bearing on the side of the base plate, a motor for driving the screw shaft, and a lever for driving the motor.